



Dean Herman Hansen

April 24, 1933 - August 12, 2020

Due to Covid-19, All Services at this time are private.

Memorials to the family for later designation.

A public Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Dean Herman Hansen was born on April 24, 1933 in Elkhorn, Nebraska to Herman and Martha (Stender) Hansen. He grew up on the family farm on West Center Rd. Dean attended Elkhorn Elementary School and graduated from Elkhorn High School in 1951. From an early age, Dean had a passion for music, especially the accordion. Dean contracted polio at the age of 4 and doctors told the family that he would struggle to walk and would not be able to farm. Dean proved them wrong. At the age of 8, Dean took up the accordion and after lessons from Fritz Poppe, Donald Rolfs and at Johnny Svoboda's Music Center, Dean honed his musical skills. Though perseverance and several surgeries he learned to walk again. After high school, Dean spent a year on the road with the Herb Molter Band, then returned to the farm to help his dad. In July of 1952, Dean received a call from the Sparta Orchestra and he played with them for a few years, during which they were featured on the weekly KMA radio station in Shenandoah, Iowa.

Dean met Marguerite Blumer at a dance in Millard and they were married on March 5, 1955 in Millard. Dean and Marguerite were blessed with four children: Murray, Marla, Lonny and Lynette. They raised their family on the

Center St. farm until moving to the farm south of Mead where they have lived for the past 49 years.

Dean's passions were all interwoven, his family, his music and the farm. Each was a part of the other and they gave him great joy. Early on, he played with Eddy Janak and Ernie Kucera before starting his own band in 1979 which featured his children. The Dean Hansen Orchestra performed in Nebraska and surrounding states for over 40 years. He has been enshrined in the Sokol Hall of Fame in Omaha and the International Music Hall of Fame in Buffalo, New York. Dean was most happy when he was with his family, playing music and tending to his farm. Dean and Marguerite had spent a short time at a facility in Omaha but after consistent and strong persuasion from Dean, they returned back to the farm. On Wednesday, August 12, 2020, during a visit from the Home Care Nurse, Dean became ill and was rushed to the Hospital.

Dean passed away on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at the Saunders County Medical Center in Wahoo, Nebraska at the age of 87 years, 3 months and 19 days. He was preceded in death by his parents Herman and Martha and son Murray. Dean is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marguerite; son Lonny (Denise) of Ithaca, Nebraska; daughters Marla (Richard) Janak of Papillion, Nebraska and Lynette Hansen of Blair, Nebraska; grandson Jared (Taylor) Janak of Maricopa, Arizona.

Cemetery Details

Morningside Cemetery-Mead

1 mile south of Mead
Mead, NE 68041

Tribute Wall



“ I remember when we lived on our farm outside of Gretna, Nebraska, My Mom & Dad would take me Polka Dancing wherever Dean played. Mom taught me how to Polka Hop. Especially liked the organ sound of his accordion He will definitely be remembered and missed and I have his Music on cassette and CD.

Michael J. Bonome - October 28, 2025 at 11:21 AM



“ Very sad to read about your loss. We've just googled a bit our family history. Best wishes from Lower Saxony, Germany (family Genning with Detlef, Ernst's son).

Annika Genning - December 25, 2022 at 12:10 PM



“ Dean Herman Hansen

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ I just learned of Dean's passing. My condolences. He was a great musician and will be missed by so many.

Charlotte Skokan

Charlotte Skokan - September 12, 2022 at 10:26 AM

PS

“ We were so sorry to hear of Dean’s passing and sending hugs and prayers to our cousins during this sad time. We always enjoyed our visits which always included food, fun memories and music. I’m sure you are entertaining everyone up in heaven! Here is our last picture together in Arizona (March 2019)
Love & Hugs
Gloria Ohrt & Pam Siebrandt



pam siebrandt - August 29, 2020 at 08:13 PM

JE

“ Prayers from the Erickson family.
Very sad to hear about this.

julie Erickson - August 21, 2020 at 08:19 AM

DK

“ Thoughts and prayers are with the family. Chuck and Doris

Doris Karloff - August 20, 2020 at 01:57 PM

RH

“ Lots of memories about Dean and his family and farm. 1st time we visited was in 1970, Dean was out spreading manure and was wearing his farm tuxedo when he came home to visit with us. We talked music for about 4 hours and I asked why he didn't play the concertina since he was so great on piano accordion and button accordion. He said wait a minute and came back with a concertina to play a tune. He said he doesn't play it in public. We visited the farm at least 4 times and he and wife Marguerite always took the time to show us around and we took turns buying each other a meal. Always enjoyed the band over many years as they always had good arrangements and musicianship. Will miss Dean but it was a pleasure to call him a friend for 40 years. Talked to him on the phone about a month ago, when they were both in a nursing home, and said he couldn't wait to get back to the farm. He didn't make it.

Roy Haag
New Braunfels, TX

Roy Haag - August 19, 2020 at 06:00 PM

SR

“ So sorry to hear of Dean's death, thoughts and prayers to the Hansen family...I remember many nights of fun, dancing at the Milrose Ballroom in Millard.

Sandy Reimers

Sandy Reimers - August 18, 2020 at 02:55 PM

FM

“ So sorry to hear of Dean's passing. He and I go back a long way. He was always a good friend. It was always a pleasure to listen to as well to play with the band beside Marla, Lynette and Lonny.

Frank Melmer

Frank Melmer - August 18, 2020 at 10:58 AM

DM

“ Our heartfelt condolences go out to you and your family. May the care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace to you through the days ahead. We can just image Dean enriching heaven, leading the orchestra, and spreading love through music.

Dave and Paula Mills

Dave and Paula Mills - August 18, 2020 at 10:31 AM



“ I will never forget the good times had by all on the Hansen Bus Trips to different Polka Fests in the Midwest. Always a great time, and Dean always picked out the best places to eat during our trips. We were never hungry, that is for sure. I will miss your happy face and smile whenever I visited with you, and danced to your great band. Heaven has just gained a fantastic musician.

Jerry Tworek

Jerry Tworek - August 18, 2020 at 02:48 AM

MB

“ Originally from Gretna, Nebraska, Listened to his music all the time and enjoyed it, Never got to meet him, We moved to the Sauganash Community in Chicago in June of 1970. But I still continued then and now to enjoy Dean's music on cassette then and CD now, I will never forget y'all Dean !!!



Michael J. Bonome - August 17, 2020 at 09:01 PM

NS

We remember Dean's family in prayer...Dean very graciously played at Redeemer Lutheran, Hooper two times when I needed an accordion for our Polka Sunday..my Dad

Myron Brand , loved polka... it was a true joy to play with Dean. I also heard him at Ace Hardware Polka days in Fremont. God bless his gentle, musical heart and spirit. Pastor Joel and Nancy Schroeder, Blair

Nancy Schroeder - October 25, 2020 at 08:41 PM

KS

*“ I never will forget sitting down at the Platt Duetsche in Grand Island Ne. when I was a youngster and Dean playing with the Ernie Kucera Band. The people down there always said how much better he made the band. He raised everyone he played with a couple notches! I always enjoyed his style of playing but more than that, he was just a joy to be around and visit with. I know he touched thousands of people's lives and so many of us will miss him. With Heartfelt Sympathy to the family of Dean Hansen.
Kenny Shuda and family*

Ken Shuda - August 17, 2020 at 04:40 PM

JJ

“ An addendum to my memory, the two bands on the same stage would play certain tunes together like When I Sleep Polka, Schuplattler Polka, and other selections. The crowd at the dances enjoyed every moment of it, and the bands enjoyed doing it.

Jens H Jensen - August 17, 2020 at 12:10 PM

JJ

“ Oh, all the memories. The Dean Hansen Orchestra and Ray Dorschner's Rainbow Valley Dutchmen on the same stage together at many polka festivals. Ellsworth, WI, Tabor, SD, Germanfest in Milwaukee, WI, Starlite Ballroom in Wahoo, NE. Maybe there are others that I have missed?
What a wonderful band and through Dean, I was introduced to Marla and Lonny. The memories and the music will live on forever.

Jens H Jensen - August 17, 2020 at 10:28 AM

SK

“ The Wahoo Senior Center sure loved to have Dean visit! He will be missed by so many! Prayers to the family for their loss.

-Sarah Kruse



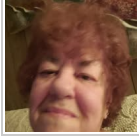
Sarah Kruse - August 16, 2020 at 11:29 PM

JC

“ Jimmy Cravens lit a candle in memory of Dean Herman Hansen



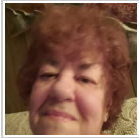
Jimmy Cravens - August 16, 2020 at 06:20 AM



“ *Mary Becker lit a candle in memory of Dean Herman Hansen*



Mary Becker - August 16, 2020 at 03:00 AM



“ *A very sweet man he will b missed*

Mel Klinkner and Mary Becker

Mary Becker - August 16, 2020 at 02:59 AM



“ *Sending my sympathy to Dean's family. Dean was our neighbor when he had a farm on center street. My sister took accordion lessons from him and after she passed away he called and we had a good talk remembering the good days in Elkhorn. Dean and his orchestra played for our wedding dance and my dad's, Fritz Paaach, cob dances. What great memories. Thanks Dean....and I know Dean and his son are playing some great polka music in Heaven right now. RIP*

Linda Kwapniowski

Linda Kwapniowski - August 14, 2020 at 05:32 PM

CR

“ As a 15 year old Dean entertained our afternoon wedding reception guests at Bev's parents farm near Bennington. This was a surprise scheduled by Bev's Dad. A very professional entertainer for a young man. I always enjoyed seeing the band in one of the TV polka shows. May God Bless Dean and all in his Family.

*Clete Roh
Rockville, MD*

Clete Roh - August 13, 2020 at 03:18 PM

ES

“ Our sincere condolences to all family members of the Dean Hansen family.
Great musician, husband, Father., Grandpa.
Past inductee in the Sokol Omaha Polka Hall of Fame and
International Polka Hall of Fame.

Will miss seeing Dean up on the bandstand with his Accordion.

*Sincere sympathy
Ed "Sonny" Svoboda*

Ed Svoboda - August 13, 2020 at 02:30 PM

GR

“ Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Dean - many wonderful memories of him because of my grandmother Anna Denker - always enjoyed his music and have a cd that I like to play at the gallery - recently saw him at the bank and he shared a story about my grandfather. He will be greatly missed.

*Warm regards & prayers,
Gene & Mary (Karloff) Roncka*

Gene & Mary Roncka - August 13, 2020 at 10:58 AM

LI

Heartfelt sympathies. many wonderful memories at dances w my parents, both gone now (Richard & Dorothy Buzelisrened to many records of him including Eddy Janak's "Piciic in the woods", over & over .He will be greatly missed . RIP Dean God Bless your family. deepest sympathies & prayers to you all. Randy &Lisa (Buzek) Hansen

lisahansen - August 13, 2020 at 11:48 AM

DM

“ *Sending my deepest sympathy in the loss of a great musician. I remember playing Eddy Janak “Picnic in the Woods” album over and over when I was a kid till I nearly wore it out. Dean will be truly missed by many.*

Donna (Salmons) Mapes - August 13, 2020 at 12:52 AM

CD

*Sincere sympathy to a wonderful musician!! He was a favorite of my dad and mom!!🎵🎹 sympathy and prayers to your family!! 🙏
Denny and Carmen Dau*

Carmen Dau - August 13, 2020 at 09:37 AM

CS

Deepest sympathy to the family. Many great memories through the years.

May God rest his soul.

Chuck Stastny

Chuck Stastny - August 13, 2020 at 11:01 AM

PL

A beloved family friend for many years & a great talent! Can't imagine our world without him. Rest In Peace Dean.

Paul & Susie Latoza - August 13, 2020 at 12:44 PM

GH

Sympathy to the Hansen Families Fred& I danced many times to his music and Loved it Thanks For Memorie

Georgia hROMAS - August 13, 2020 at 01:32 PM

PS

He was a great musician and a down to Earth good farm boy at heart.

Patsy Schmidt - August 13, 2020 at 08:42 PM

ET

With a smile on his face and a nod of the head Dean would acknowledge the dancer(s) on the floor as we danced to his accordion and band. A great musician and personality has left us. Rest in eternal happiness, Dean! My deepest and sincere sympathy to all loved ones in Dean's family.

Emma Trouba - August 14, 2020 at 08:49 AM

VG

Dean was a great musician, farmer, family man, friend, and was the Student Manager of Elkhorn High School's first football team!!! We really enjoyed going to his dances!! Sympathies to Marguerite, Lonny, Marla, Lynette & the entire family. R.I.P., Dean...Virgil & Judy Gottsch

Virgil & Judy Gottsch - August 15, 2020 at 10:58 AM

DK

*The whole world should have danced to Dean's music as we did for many years. Thank you,Dean, for those priceless memories. Our most sincere condolences to Marguerite and family.
Dennis and Eileen Kucera*

Dennis Kucera - August 15, 2020 at 12:32 PM

BR

He played at our wedding reception. I'm sure many others would say the same. He had great music

Barb & John Rhodes - August 15, 2020 at 03:40 PM

BA

For the Armbrust clan Dean brought great fun in his music and great joy in his personality.
Bill Armbrust Elkhorn

Bill Armbrust - August 18, 2020 at 09:17 AM

AS

I lived across Center Street from the Hanson family farm in 1944 when I was in first grade. I met Dean and Don Rolfs. I regret that I didn't respond when they offered to share their musical training with me. They were wonderful performers and dear friends.

Allen H. Sohl

Allen H. Sohl - August 18, 2020 at 11:06 AM

KP

Sympathy to Marguerite and the family on the passing of Dean. He was a true legend in the polka world. Dad (Leonard Piitz) always enjoyed playing with Dean during his years with the Ernie Kucera Orchestra. The last time I saw Dean was in Abie where we had a good, long visit about the "good old days" and we were looking at the pictures of a Texas orchestra trip in the 60's where Dean was holding a gigantic watermelon. May good memories bring you comfort in the days ahead.
Kathy (Piitz) Peters

Kathy J. Peters - August 19, 2020 at 05:46 PM

CC

Sympathy to the Hansen Family on the passing of Dean. He was a wonderful musician and a great friend. Our family has many good memories. Our sincere condolences to Marguerite and family.

Clarice Capoun

Clarice Capoun - August 19, 2020 at 06:18 PM